

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated March 19, 2008 (the Action).

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 608899 to Hitoshi (Hitoshi). Claims 7-10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO0241607 to John (John). Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2339342 to White (White). Claims 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over John in view of WO0137229 to Guy (Guy). Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over John in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,655,017 to David (David). Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of EP 518578 to Noriyuki (Noriyuki). Applicants note that many of the references in the Action are referred to by the inventor's first name rather than the more conventional notation of referring to the inventor's last name. Applicants have retained the naming convention as presented in the Action for ease of reference.

In response, Claim 1 has been amended to recite a radio communication terminal assembly comprising a multipath connector that is directly attached to the data processing means. Claims 7-13 and 16-19 have been amended to depend from Claim 1. Claim 14 has been canceled. Claim 20 is new and recites that the assembly further includes a detachable active housing configured to releasably attach to the attachment means of the terminal and to enclose at least part of the data processing means. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in paragraphs 33, original Claim 2 and in Figures 2-6, 7A-7B, 8A-8B and 9A-9B of the current application with reference to the paragraph numbering of U.S. Publication No. 2006/0135056.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claims 1-13

Claim 1 as amended recites as follows:

1. A radio communication terminal assembly comprising a radio communication terminal having data processing means for controlling terminal functions, attaching means for releasable attachment of a housing to the terminal, and a multipath connector directly connected to the data processing means, wherein the multipath connector includes a terminal system connector, and a housing connector configured to provide a communicative connection of an attached housing to the data processing means

As noted above, Claim 1 stands rejected as being anticipated by Hitoshi. Figures 11, 14 and 15a-15c of Hitoshi are reproduced below.

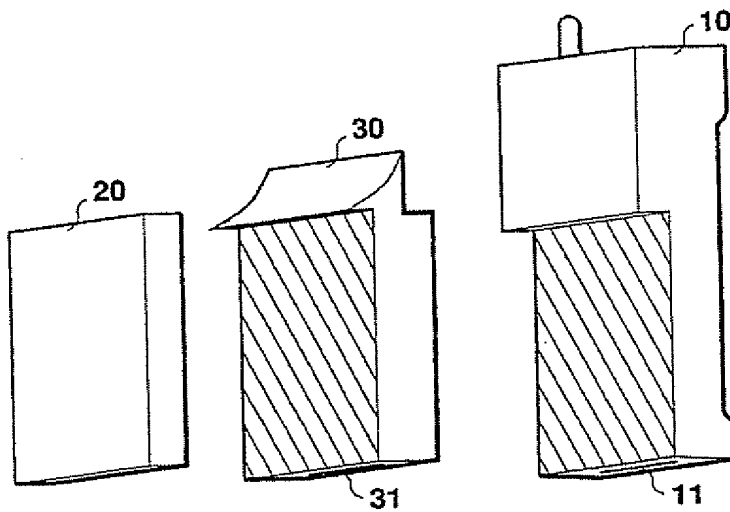


Fig. 11

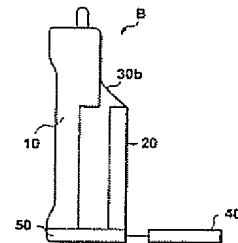


Fig. 14

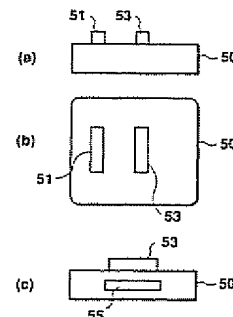


Fig. 15

The Action takes the position that Hitoshi discloses a multipath connector and identifies the connector 55 as analogous to the terminal system connector and the connectors 51 and 53 as analogous to the housing connector recited in Claim 1. As is clearly shown, *e.g.*, in Figure 11, the terminal 10 includes a connector 11 for external connection and the additional device 30 includes an external connector 31. The connectors 11, 31 connect to a separate connector

base 50. *See, e.g.*, Figure 14 and paragraph [0021]. Thus, Hitoshi clearly does not disclose a multipath connector that is directly connected to the data processing means of the terminal as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, there is no apparent reason to modify the separate connector base 50 of Hitoshi to provide the claimed multipath connector that is directly connected to the data processing means of the terminal, *e.g.*, as shown in Figures 5-6 of the current application. In particular, the terminal 10 of Hitoshi is configured to be removably attached to the base 50 and uses a separate, external connector 11 to form a connection with the separate connector base 50.

Applicants submit that the deficiencies of Hitoshi are not remedied by John, White, Guy, David or Noriyuki. For example, John proposes a detachable housing, but clearly does not disclose a multipath connector and/or a system connector as recited in Claim 1. White proposes a surface mount electrical connector for electrically connecting two PCBs of a mobile phone to a removable battery, but is apparently silent with respect to a direct connection to a data processing means as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 2-13 and 16-19 depend from Claim 1 and are likewise patentable. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-13 and 16-19 be withdrawn.

II. New Claim 20

Claim 20 depends from Claim 1 and is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. In addition, Claim 20 is separately patentable for at least the following reasons.

Claim 20 recites that the terminal assembly includes a detachable active housing configured to releaseably attach to the attachment means of the terminal and to enclose at least part of the data processing means. In contrast, the terminal 10 of Hitoshi includes a housing (*see, e.g.*, Figure 11) that is apparently not active. The devices 20 and 30 are described by Hitoshi as a battery and an additional device (such as a battery or memory (*see* paragraphs [0029]-[0030])), respectively. Thus, Hitoshi clearly does not disclose an active

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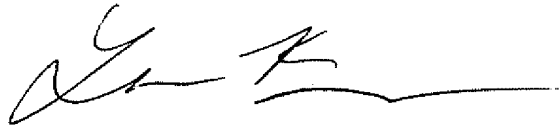
housing and a multipath connector including a terminal system connector and a housing connector. These recitation is also not disclosed by John, White, Guy, David or Noriyuki.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 20 is separately patentable over the cited prior art and respectfully request an indication of same.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

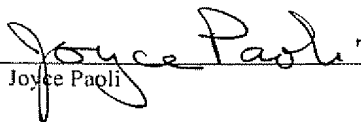


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 19, 2008.

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